From The President

September 30 marks the end of the Crescent Hill Community Council's fiscal year so I thought I'd take this opportunity to give you an "annual report" about your neighborhood organization.

From a financial perspective, 1991-1992 was very successful, thanks to three major items. First, membership was up about 20% from 1990-1991. Second, this newsletter continues to pay for itself (thanks to our loyal advertisers.) Third, we earned a record profit of nearly $5,000 on the Old Fashioned Fourth of July, an increase of some 40% over 1991. Half of the profit from the Fourth goes to the Peterson-Dumesnil House Foundation.

Our financial condition has allowed us to do more for the neighborhood this year. We contributed $1,000 to the Friends of the Crescent Hill Library to assist with the renovation of that neighborhood treasure. We also planted flowers and shrubs on Grinstead Drive and Frankfort Avenue.

Even more important than our financial performance was the fact that more neighbors than ever were involved in helping their neighborhood -- as members of or volunteers for the Council, or as vocal supporters of important neighborhood institutions, like our branch library. We take particular pleasure in helping the Friends of the Library make people aware of the threat to that facility and mobilize support for it in its hour of need.

Thanks to all who worked to make their neighborhood better in 1992.

Bill Hollander

Bill Hollander

Crescent Hill's Firehouse Since 1908

Editor's Note:
This is the first in a series of articles about historic buildings and sites in the Crescent Hill neighborhood. Information for this article was taken from "Crescent Hill Revisited" by Samuel W. Thomas.

Located on the corner of Frankfort Avenue and Franck Avenue, the Crescent Hill firehouse is one of several buildings in the neighborhood that are on the National Register of Historic Places.

The former home of Steam Engine 21 was designed by architects John H. Thomas and Ferdinand W. Bohne and erected by George H. Rommel in 1908. The turn-of-the-century had brought restraint to the design of firehouses, and the colonial revival style of the Crescent Hill firehouse reflects the change in the architectural modes found in Louisville neighborhoods of the period.

Crescent, Hill and Earl were literally the "horsepower" for the fire department until 1921 when the steam engine and the motor hose wagon took over. The original horse sheds still stand behind the firehouse today. Currently the fire company consists of Engine 4 and Truck 6. The firehouse was added to the National Register in 1980. Besides providing the neighborhood with fire protection, Crescent Hill residents have the added convenience of having one of the city firehouse recycling centers. The bins are located behind the fire station off the alleyway, and glass, plastic, aluminum and tin and household batteries are accepted for recycling.

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Model Block Project Wins Award

The Frankfort Avenue revitalization project, which has been winning compliments from Crescent Hill residents has been honored by the American Planning Association, Kentucky Chapter. The project, known as the "model block," along with other Louisville neighborhood revitalization projects, has been given the Highest Honors Award by the chapter, the highest recognition given for planning in Kentucky. The award presentation was made September 25th at a luncheon in Indianapolis.

The Model Block Project is actually a revitalization of a three block area, beginning at Frank Avenue and continuing to the east. Plans for the project were developed by the Louisville/Jefferson County Office for Economic Development, with input from two committees of the Crescent Hill Community Council. The plans were unveiled to local businesses in January of 1990, shown to property owners in a series of meetings over the next month and endorsed by the Council's board of directors in March.

In the two and one-half years since, the City has spent over $150,000 for design work and public improvements in the area, most recently for the construction of a public parking lot behind Colonial Services at the corner of Frankfort and Hite Avenue. The lot is reached from the alley just south of Frankfort Avenue. New sidewalks, trees and benches have also been installed, and low interest loans for facade improvements totalling over $115,000 have been made to property owners. Property owners have invested approxomiately $385,000 more with their own financing or conventional loans.

Alderman Melissa Mershon spearheaded the project. Office for Economic Development employees Chuck Kavanaugh, Pat Francis, Carol Hensley, John Cosby, Cherri Hughes and Vicky Weber were instrumental in its development.

Congratulations to all!

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